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An Angel Talks to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24



WEEK 2

POINT ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

Open your Bible to Matthew 1, and show children the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book. It tells us about baby Jesus and his earthly father, Joseph.** Show Card 1. **An angel came to visit Joseph with a message from God.** Show Card 2. **Joseph was sleeping. The angel spoke to him in a dream.** Show Card 3. **The angel said, "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. God has a special plan for her. She's going to have a baby! Name the baby Jesus. He will save people from their sins."** Show Card 4. **God had asked Joseph to believe something that seemed impossible. But when Joseph woke up, he did what the angel told him to do. Mary and Joseph got married.** Show Card 5. **When Mary had her baby, Joseph named him Jesus just as the angel had told him to. Let's sing to celebrate Jesus' birth!**

Lead kids in singing 🎵 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (track 4) on the [CD](#).

SING:

Angels we have heard on high (*hold hand to ear*)

Sweetly singing o'er the plains (*put hand by mouth, pull it away*),

And the mountains in reply (*make a "mountain" over your head*)

Echoing their joyous strains. (*Hold hands to ears, move them out.*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

Come to Bethlehem, and see (*hold hand to eyes*)

Him whose birth the angels sing (*pretend to rock a baby*);

Come, adore on bended knee (*bend knees*)

Christ the Lord, our newborn King. (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

In excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

In excelsis Deo! (*Spin.*)

ASK: **Tell what you like best about the angel and Joseph.**

What makes Jesus better than other gifts?

SAY: **Jesus is the best gift because without him, we couldn't be in God's family. We couldn't go to heaven. But because of God's gift of Jesus, ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**



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POINT ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

SAY: The Bible says that God adopted us into his own family through Jesus Christ (adapted from Ephesians 1:5). That means ➡ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.** Let's sing a song about God's love for us, his children.

Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" (not on the CD).

SING:

God loves us, don't you see? (*Hug yourself.*)

God loves us, don't you see? (*Hug yourself.*)

He calls us his children 'cause (*point to yourself*)

God loves us, don't you see? (*Hug yourself.*)

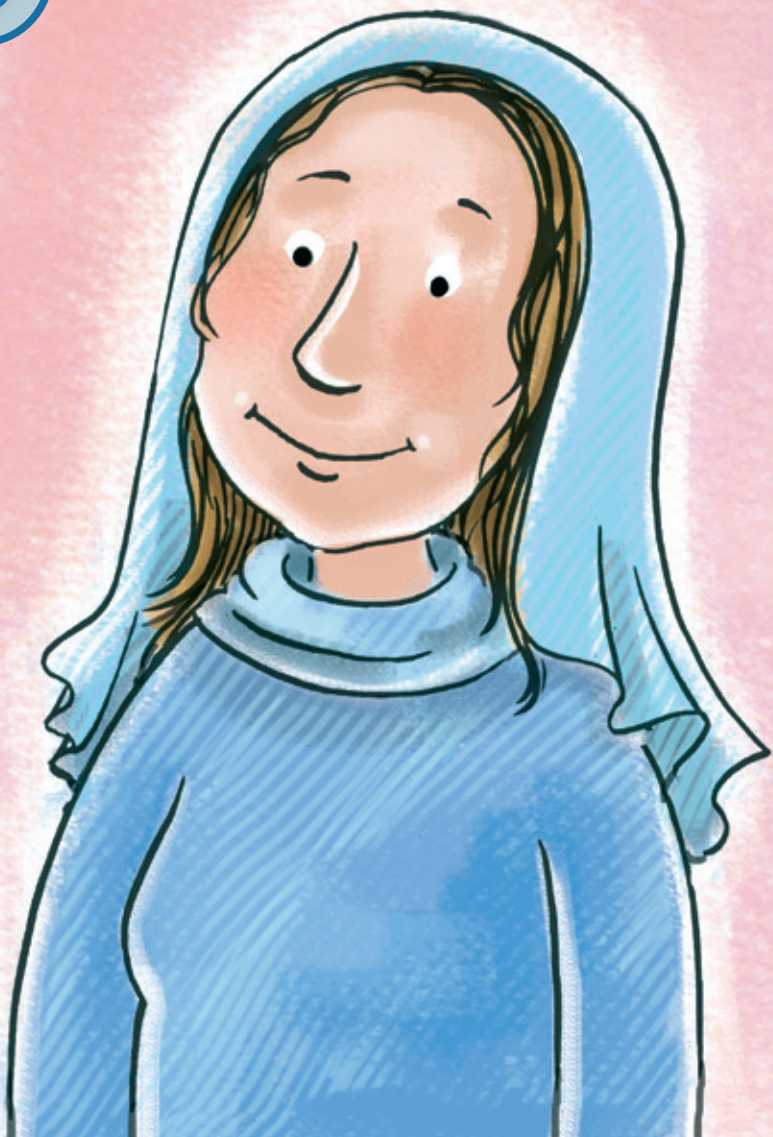
ASK: What are some ways fathers show their children they love them?

How is God like or not like a father?

What would you like to say to your Father, God?

SAY: Some people have wonderful dads. Some people don't even know their dads. But everyone can have the best dad ever when they believe in Jesus, because that's how ➡ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

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POINT ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

SAY: God loves each of us so much! One way he showed us his love is by giving us baby Jesus. Because of Jesus, ➡ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.** Let's draw pictures to help us remember that.

Pass out paper and the *Color Switchers Markers*, and have kids draw pictures of themselves. When they finish, SAY: **Jesus starts with the letter J. Let's print the letter J on our pictures to show that because God gave us Jesus, ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Have kids turn their markers around to use the other end. Show the J on this card. Have kids write a "J" on their shirts in their pictures.

ASK: **Why do you or don't you want to be God's child?**

Tell what you think about Jesus.

SAY: **Jesus came to earth so he could help us be God's friends and family. He loves us so much and he wanted to make sure ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**



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**POINT ➡ WE CAN BE
GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Gather kids around you in a circle on the floor. SAY: **An angel brought Joseph a message while he slept. Let's imagine what that would be like. Stretch your arms and pretend you're sleepy.** Have kids do so. **Gently rub your tired eyes.** Show kids how, and have them copy you. **It's time to go to sleep!** Have kids lie down and pretend to fall asleep.

Pretend an angel is talking to you while you sleep. I wonder what the angel would say. Pause for kids to think silently about this. **I think the angel might say, "God loves you. He calls you his child."**

Now picture yourself doing something with God, the same kinds of things you do with your mom or dad. ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN. Allow a few moments for kids to imagine.

SAY: **It's time to wake up! Sit up and stretch your arms.** Wait for kids to do so.

ASK: **What kinds of things do you do with your mom or dad?**

What kinds of things can you do with God?

SAY: **We can't see God, but we can see the things he does to show how much he loves us! When we believe that Jesus showed God's love to us, ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

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POINT ➡ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

Form five groups (a group can be one child, and if needed you may teach one child two motions). Teach each group one of the following motions:

- Group 1, gently flap arms like angel wings;
- Group 2, lay head on hands as if sleeping;
- Group 3, rock a baby;
- Group 4, hug self;
- Group 5, point to yourself.

Read the phrases below, pointing to each group as indicated to do the assigned motion.

The angel (Group 1)

Told Joseph (Group 2)

Mary would have a baby. (Group 3)

Joseph loved Mary and baby Jesus.
(Group 4)

➡ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**
(Group 5)

Repeat several times, challenging kids to do their motions faster and faster or letting groups switch roles so kids can try different motions.

ASK: Why do you love Jesus?

Tell about someone besides your mom or dad who loves you.

SAY: Jesus was God's Son, not Joseph's. Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. But Joseph loved Jesus like a son. Because God loves us just like his own sons and daughters,
➡ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**